

British Troops Make Gains in Flanders, Berlin Admits in Official War Report

BRITISH GAIN IN FLANDERS SMALL, SAYS BERLIN REPORT

(Continued from First Page.)
narrow strip of our forehead. Passchendaele is ours.
"East of Zonnebeke an enemy attack collapsed, and one near Gheluvelt also failed."
The immense German losses in the British and French offensive are admitted by the military critic of the Tageblatt, who comments upon the excellent morale maintained despite the heavy casualties.
The critic declares that the losses have been as great as to induce the government to refer to them as a tribute to the troops.
"By the combined action of sections of our army and navy, we obtained a footing on the island of Oesel," said an official statement describing the Riga gulf campaign.

MUD AND GERMANS FAIL TO HALT DRIVE OF HAIG'S SOLDIERS

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS, (United Press Staff Correspondent.)
WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FLANDERS, Oct. 14.—Nature is doing her worst to halt the British drive, and failing.
An unheard-of rain—a drenching, continuous cloudburst that literally washed away some of the ridges in the Passchendaele sector—continued for hours.
British shells plunged into the liquid drab mass of mud and sounded new depths of ooze. Scrambling, slipping, all but swimming along its surface bedaubed Tommies squirmed forward. They were soaked to the skin, every square inch of their bodies was painted with a dingy encrusted mass. But they fought on.

All Look Alike in Mud.
Headquarters reports detail actual instances where charging—or, rather, sliding—soldiers had found mudholes more than over their head in depth. Exploding shells and grenades threw showers of molten viscous muck all over the landscape. If it were not for the difference in the type of the steel helmets, there would have been difficulty in distinguishing friend from foe, so thoroughly covered were the men on both sides with mud.

British soldiers, scorning the tempest and the pouring clouds, joined the offensive of the land Tommies, swinging dizzily down across the German lines to add their sheets of steel to the downpour of pelting rain. They performed valuable reconnaissance work, directing the British artillery through the murky air.
Australians in Fierce Attack.
The Australians, fighting fiercely, moved their lines still closer to Passchendaele, and hurled back a German counter attack.
That counter attack was the only one reported along the front of the whole British advance. The Germans were either fearful of the all-encompassing mud, or else they were so thoroughly miserable from the ever-increasing British artillery roar

District Boy Wins Army Honors



JAMES A. HANCE.

that they decided counter blows were hardly worth while.

British fighters in the Poolescapelle sector cheered an officer who had the nerve to march right up to the German trenches and "bawl out" the boches for their barbarity.

While the fierce struggle raged, particularly around the brewery, on the edge of Poolescapelle, the Germans continued to violate the battlefield code of honor by mercilessly sniping at stretcher bearers, meanwhile using the Red Cross flag themselves to shield reconnoitering parties.
When 100 British stretcher men out of 250 had been killed or wounded in one short sector, the navy officer acted. He saw three stretcher bearers of one group of four shot down before his eyes. Their Red Cross flag fell.

He stepped boldly forward, seized the banner of mercy, and deliberately marched up to the German positions. The Germans, astonished, stared at him. Standing squarely in front of the boches, he read them the riot act in excellent German.
"Only ewine," he yelled at them, "are capable of sniping at Red Cross men engaged in rescuing sufferers from the mud."

PETROGRAD, Oct. 14.—The strategic importance of the capture by Germans of the Baltic island of Dagoo has not been underestimated by the Russian admiralty. Proclamations have been sent to the army and fleet calling attention to the growing danger of an attack, even upon the capital, and exhorting the men to turn their energies to the defense of the coast.

An official statement says, in part: "The Germans have been preparing for some time for the landing on the islands of Oesel and Dagoo, and their operations were facilitated by the weakness of the Russian patrol service. The landing was done with extraordinary rapidity. The forces landed are estimated at not over two divisions.
"The loss of the islands deprives the Russians of their heretofore commanding position over the Gulf of Riga and necessitates a change in the Russian army's positions around Segevoia and a withdrawal to the Venden-Valk line."

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 14.—"Michaelis must go" is the cry of the hour throughout Germany. The Socialists through their official organ, Vorwaerts, started it. All other parties have taken it up. Bethmann Hollweg's successor, it is believed, will not last in office another month.
Prince von Buelow, the former chancellor, and Dr. von Kuehlmann, who as foreign minister has made a good impression on the Reichstag majority, stand out as the most talked about possibilities for the chancellorship.

WASHINGTON BOY WINNING HONORS WITH DRAGOONS

Although James A. Hance, former Washington schoolboy and once a member of Battery A, District National Guard, has not yet sailed for France with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, he is already distinguishing himself in training, according to word from Canada which reached Washington today.
Not satisfied with being in one of Canada's picked regiments, "Jim," as he is more popularly known, has since enlisting in August, won three "Victoria cross medals," which netted \$5 cash and the crossed rifles on his sleeve, and has had his name posted as the "best marksman in the regiment."

Here is how "Jim" Hance, who worked in the Raleigh Hotel and for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, copped the Canadian prizes:
Take Intensive Training.
The Dragoons are taking an intensive course of training, "domestically," before sailing for France to join the Bengal Lancers of India. They work from 6:30 o'clock in the morning until 6 in the evening. Among the many tricks being learned to beat the Kaiser they have "Victoria Cross races."

A field is strewn with dummies, each the size and weight of a man. The dummies represent wounded comrades. The field is the field of battle. The participants in the race all start together from some given point. They ride at breakneck speed down the field, the rider picking up one of the prostrate "comrades" from the field and returning to the starting point some distance away. The winner receives \$3. Three times a winner and the crossed rifles are awarded. "Jim" has won three such races. The last race that he won his horse threw him. Dismounted he gathered up his dummy, mounted and then went out.

Is Now Florida.
The riding crop seen in the picture is a part of the Canadian Dragoon's uniform. A lance, a saber, revolver and carbine complete the Dragoon's killing apparatus.
"Jim" is the son of Mrs. J. L. Lincolnton, who since her second marriage has lived in Florida. A brother, Jack Hance, is a member of the Pinellas county machine gun company of the Second Florida Infantry now in training at Macon. A son, James Alfred Hance, Jr., lives with his grandmother, Mrs. R. E. Jacobs, at 2606 University place northwest.

TAKES BICHLORIDE TABLET BY MISTAKE

Mrs. Mary Koontz, 1514 East Capital street, is at Casualty Hospital, suffering from the effects of one bichloride of mercury tablet, which she says she took by mistake last night.
Mrs. Koontz, who is eighteen years old, told Dr. W. J. Colbert at the institution that she took what she supposed to be a headache lozenge in the bathroom of her home without striking a light, and then, turning up the gas, discovered she had the wrong bottle.

GIRLS THREATEN STRIKE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 14.—Five thousand employees of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company threaten to strike unless they are given an increase in wages and recognition of the Girl Operators' Union. Should a referendum vote now being taken result in a strike order the territory affected would extend from Seattle to San Diego.

TWO MORE LITTLE WAIFS TO SHARE SHEPARD FORTUNE

Participation in the joint fortunes of Mr. and Mrs. J. Shepard (the latter formerly Miss Helen Miller Gould) is assured to two little girls, aged six and seven, respectively, whose legal adoption before Supreme Court Justice Young, of Westchester, has been acknowledged by the vice president of the Missouri Pacific Railway and his philanthropic wife.
The two lucky youngsters, who have been living in the Shepard home on probation for the past fifteen months, will be known as Helen Anna Shepard and O. Margaret Shepard. Henceforth they will be regarded as sisters of Finley J. Shepard, Jr., who was adopted from St. Christopher's Home, at Dobbs Ferry, in 1916. It is understood that the three children have developed great affection for each other and are devoted to their foster parents.

Fourth Waif on Trial.
A fourth waif, named Louis, is said to be living in the Shepard home at 579 Fifth avenue. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Shepard is prepared to say, at this time, whether Louis will be adopted.
The name of Helen Gould has become synonymous with philanthropy during the past twenty years. Daughter of Jay Gould, the railroad king, the present Mrs. Shepard came into a fortune of approximately \$10,000,000 on the occasion of her father's death. Long before that time, however, she had become world-famous by reason of the generosity and diplomacy of her charities.

On January 29, 1915, Helen Gould married Finley J. Shepard, then an officer of the Missouri Pacific Railway corporation, which was among the railroad properties inherited by her brother, George Gould, when their father died. The ceremony took place quietly at Lyndhurst, the Gould estate near Tarrytown. The bride was forty-five years of age and Mr. Shepard forty-six at the time.
On October 21, 1915, the Shepards formally adopted a small, flaxen-haired waif, known at the St. Christopher Home as "John Doe, No. 104," otherwise Austin McCleary. They took him to the beautiful country estate at Irvington-on-Hudson, where he has since thrived and blossomed with all of the lovable traits which Mr. and Mrs. Shepard detected in him when they found him in the asylum.

"We took him," said Mrs. Shepard at that time, "because he is such a lovable, teachable boy, and because we have such a big place up at Irvington that it seemed to me, every time I looked about it, as though children should be running all over it all the time."

Child Found On Steps.
"John Doe No. 104" was found on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral on the night of September 12, 1914, by Patrolman Charles Dinagan, of the East Fifty-third street police station.



MRS. SHEPARD AND FINLEY J. JR.

He was turned over to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and later to the Dobbs Ferry Home. Less than a year after the adoption of "John Doe No. 104" rumor told of the presence in the big home at Irvington of other candidates for adoption. These subsequently proved to

Adopted Children Will Inherit Millions



FINLEY J. JR. AND MARGARET SHEPARD.

be the two little girls and the other boy, Louis, who were taken in on probation some fifteen months ago.

Mrs. Shepard wishes it to be clearly understood that the children whom she and her husband may see fit to adopt will become their sons or daughters in the fullest sense of the word.

"He's our son in all that the word implies," said Mr. Shepard, shortly after the adoption of Finley, Jr. "We tried to find his parents and failed; now he's ours to keep."

"If he wants to become a railroad man, a broker, or a minister, it's entirely up to him," she added. "We'll give him early training, but do not intend to force him into any profession against his will. He will be sent to one of the large Eastern universities if he shows an inclination to go. My father was graduated from Trinity College, and I intend to go there, too."

Finley is a normal, healthy boy. He is already showing much interest

WITH KNIFE AT HER THROAT BRAVE GIRL FRUSTRATES NEGRO

(Continued from First Page.)
her she stepped aside to allow him to pass.
But instead he suddenly grabbed her by her throat and attempted to choke her. She managed to prevent his attempt to strangle her, and screamed loudly for help. The negro attempted to stuff his handkerchief into her mouth, and the handkerchief was found at the scene of the struggle later.

Finally the negro, unable to prevent her screams, grew desperate, and, drawing a knife, threatened to slash her if she did not cease her cries.

Alarmed by the sound of an approaching automobile, the negro released his victim and hastily made off into the woods.

Running to the home of Mrs. Rosalind Mackey, Miss Stutta told of her experience, and then became hysterical.

Captain J. Stutta, the girl's father, who is captain of the watch at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was notified, and his friends began a search for the girl's assailant. Miss Stutta says she will be able to identify him.

Miss Stutta, who will graduate from Western High School in June, is very popular and indignation is high among those few who know of the attack. A new search is being made for the man today under direction of Sheriff H. B. Fields.

BROTHERS OF MARY OBSERVE CENTENARY

Honoring the centenary of the organization of the Brothers of Mary, one of the foremost teaching bodies in the Catholic Church, men prominent in professional, commercial, and social life, "Brothers of Mary Graduates" were present in numbers at the Church of the Immaculate Conception this morning at the solemn high mass of thanksgiving offered in appreciation of the benefits derived from the labors of the society.

In nature and spends much of his time gathering autumn leaves.

As is the case with his newly adopted sisters, the child history of Finley, Jr., lies in the shadows, and will not be exploited if his foster parents can help it. All three of the children—and all others who may be adopted by the Shepards—will have their unobstructed chance in life.

Helen Anna, six years old, is described as a winsome little brunette with brown eyes. O. Margaret, seven years old, is said to be a fascinating little blonde with blue eyes.

It is quite certain that one of the girls was an orphan and quite probable that the parents of the other are dead. The family history of the little ones, after scrutiny, satisfied Mr. Shepard as to their heredity. Mr. Shepard refused to discuss their adoption for publication, except to say:

"Yes, they are ours. Although the legal adoption is rather recent, they won our hearts completely long ago. They have been living with us now for a year and a half, but it takes time to arrange an adoption through the courts, for there are many things to be attended to.
"It's a pretty good-sized family for a five years' marriage," he continued, "but we have always been interested in children. We have gone carefully into each case before adopting them. Some of our friends have adopted children, occasionally very quickly, and have been exceedingly successful. But we have always chosen our little ones with great care."

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